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DEPARTMENT OF VISITING NURSING AND SOCIAL WELFARE*



IN CHARGE OF

EDNA L. FOLEY, R.N.

OHIO.—The fifth annual report of the Babies' Dispensary and Hospital of Cleveland shows that their progress has been a very rapid one and always on an up-grade. The splendid illustrations prove, among other things, that small beginnings are not to be despised, for how could even the most enthusiastic supporter of babyhood foresee that the milk-boy with his hand-cart would be replaced by a motor-truck milk-delivery in half a decade. And in the tragic photograph of the fretful, world-weary mite of humanity, whose sufferings seem so nearly over, only the most sanguine, patient of nurses could see the possibility of his Serene Highness who so graciously deigns to pose for the camera-man.

An appropriation of \$10,000 from an unusually enlightened Board of Health made it possible to extend the work during the summer, and eight more nurses were added to the staff, making twelve Board of Health nurses and five Out-Door Ward nurses working under the supervision of the Babies' Dispensary and Hospital. All sorts of babies were treated and cared for, two nurses being assigned to look after babies suffering from ophthalmia neonatorum. In seven months, these nurses had treated 185 cases in their homes, forty of whom would probably have been permanently blind had they not received special care. The State Board of Ohio has given the nurses the privilege of going into boarding-homes for babies to instruct and advise the care-taker, but as these homes are run primarily for profit and not for the baby's welfare, a special plea is made for middle-class boarding homes for these neglected children, where there will not be more than one baby to a home, all of the homes to be under the supervision of a nurse who will be appointed for this special duty. The report of the Superintendent of Nurses, Harriet L. Leet, emphasizes the fact that the greatest need in Cleveland is for hospital room for sick babies, for in spite of the valiant efforts of the staff at the Out-Door Ward last summer, many babies were lost whom hospital care might have saved.

* Contributions for this department may be sent to Room 1411, 127 N. Dearborn St., Chicago.

Not only is the whole report especially interesting to all nurses, but its excellent photographs, clear type, and well-arranged subject-matter show how effectively an annual report may be presented. We all agree with the director of a Charity Organization Society who said that "he was always anxious to have his yearly reports reach the desks of his subscribers, not their waste-baskets," and yet some associations do not seem to realize that in this century of many interests it is the unusual report that escapes the waste-basket. A page full of accurate statistics is imposing, but conveys little to the mind of the casual reader, whereas the photograph of a successful "case," or a dirty alley, or an appealing child, accompanied by a true "human interest" story, not only increases the subscriptions from its readers, but enlists their sympathy and help when public measures to protect the happiness and lives of our chosen people are up before the legislature. Let every busy visiting nurse remember that she is in duty bound to share some of this "local color" with which her daily life abounds with the vast majority who otherwise would not realize how the other half lives. To steal from Dr. Cabot, our duty is as much to the "floundering rich" as to the "struggling poor" and as an annual report is one of our mediums of interpreting the latter to the former, let us not feel that long hours given in its preparation are other than well-spent.

Cleveland nurses have been fortunate enough to be invited to attend an interesting course of lectures, given under the auspices of the Western Reserve University and The Visiting Nurse Association, of Cleveland, on "The Traditions and Ideals of our Foreign Population," for the class in the training of nurses for social work. The lectures are given every fortnight, the lecturers being members of the university staff. Cleveland has a very large foreign-born population, and the following titles give some idea of the number of nationalities with whom the nurses come in contact: The Modern Greeks, The Germans at Home, The Magyars at Home and in America, The Italians, The Bohemian and the Slovak on Their Native Soil and in America, the Southern Slavs, Racial Characteristics of the Jew (two lectures), The Poles. Other nursing associations in university towns might well profit by Cleveland's good example.

WISCONSIN.—As a result of the careful anti-tuberculosis campaign that has been carried on in Wisconsin during the past few years, several towns are looking into local conditions more thoroughly, and the demand for nurses trained in visiting tuberculosis nursing work is growing

daily. La Crosse has had a nurse for one year; the people are greatly pleased with the results of her work. Kenosha recently appropriated \$500 to be used toward a nurse's salary. The Richland Centre Anti-Tuberculosis Association has decided that the next step in its campaign will be the employment of a nurse. Stoughton plans to spend its share of the Christmas Red Cross seal money for a nurse who may divide her time between it and two neighboring towns, Edgerton and Milton.

The Milwaukee Visiting Nurse Association has recently published its Fourth Annual Report for the year ending November 1, 1911. Under the superintendentship of Mrs. Kate Kohlsaet there are now thirteen visiting nurses; five are working in the districts and also for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; four are assisting in the Department of Medical Inspection of the public schools; one nurse is working with the Pfister & Vogel Leather Company; two nurses are assisting the Child Welfare Commission; and one nurse gives half her time to the Northwestern Malleable Iron Company and the other half to district work. During the year the nurses made calls at the homes of twenty-eight different nationalities, and cared for in the baby tents during July and August, seventy-five infants.

CALIFORNIA.—Ednah Shuey, president of the California State Nurses' Association, has resigned her position as visiting tuberculosis nurse of the San Francisco Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis and is now in charge of the Berkeley Dispensary, West Berkeley. Clinics are held daily, except Sundays and holidays, and lectures are given on hygiene and simple home treatment of minor ailments. The dispensary is comfortably located in an eight-room house, and minor operations on ear, eye, nose and throat are performed there. As yet Berkeley has no school nurse, but the teachers watch the children closely and co-operate with the dispensary in every possible way. The Berkeley schools, however, have a dental nurse and employ a graduate woman dentist, who inspects the teeth of all of the school children and examines for adenoids and tonsils at the same time. A free dental clinic is maintained for the children, supported by the dental society of Berkeley.

Violet M. Jensen, Hahnemann Hospital, Chicago, has accepted the position of Visiting Nurse at Rockford. Miss Jensen will be Rockford's first visiting nurse and spent two weeks in Chicago, in January, looking into the work.